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UKRAINIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

- USSR -

by B. Vvedenskiy, L. Shaumyan, and S. Gershberg

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Following is a translation of an article by B. Vvedenskiy, L. Shaumyan, and S. Gershberg in the Russian-language newspaper ~~Pravda~~ *NP* ~~Izvestiya~~ *Izvestiya*, Moscow, Vol. 44, No. 64 (13300), 16 March 1960, page 4.

On the Publication of the First Volume of the Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia

The first volume of the USE /Ukrainska Radyans'ka Entsiklopediya/ Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia has just been published by the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR in accordance with the instruction of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and the Ukrainian Government. This encyclopedia has been conceived as a major work in 16 volumes, containing more than 50,000 articles. This is the first time such a publication has been attempted in our country. The appearance of the first volume of an Ukrainian encyclopedia will doubtless be not only a great occasion for Ukrainian socialist culture, but also a major event in the cultural life of all the peoples of the USSR.

Not only is an encyclopedia a mirror in which is reflected the culture of a people, it also shows their cultural level and reflects their maturity. Only the accumulation of tremendous cultural values permits the preparation of a universal work which provides a scientific answer to questions relating to all spheres of human knowledge. The issuance of Soviet universal encyclopedias during the last three and a half decades (two editions of Bol'shaya sovetskaya entsiklopediya /Great Soviet Encyclopedia/, three editions of Malaya sovetskaya entsiklopediya /Small Soviet Encyclopedia/ -- the first encyclopedias in history based on the Marxist-Leninist world view--are convincing evidence of the great victories of the cultural revolution in our country. The publication of the USE reflects the historic victories of the Leninist nationality policy of the Communist Party.

The appearance of the USE, which is being prepared through the efforts of Ukrainian scientists and men of letters, shows the enormous development which science has achieved in the Soviet Ukraine, how the cadres have matured in the republic. A convincing illustration of this growth is the material given in the first volume of the USE in the article "Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR". From this article we learn that in the postwar period alone a series of major scientific institutions have been set up in the Ukraine. Among them are the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (founded at the end of 1945); institutes of philosophy (1947), utilization of gas (1950), metal ceramics and specialized alloys (1955), radio physics and electronics (1956), physics of metals (1955); a computation center (1957); Institute of Polymers and Monomers (1958). By the end of 1958 the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine already included 60 scientific establishments. In the last few years about 12,000 persons have been employed in the establishments of the Academy of Sciences, including 2,226 scientific workers, among them 87 academicians and 121 corresponding members.

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences has become one of the best-known scientific centers in the Soviet Union and has enriched Soviet and world science by major discoveries and researches. Famous are the merits of Ukrainian physicists in the creation and development of a new subdivision of mathematical physics--nonlinear mechanics. A great deal of work has been done in the field of aerohydrodynamics. In the Ukrainian Institute of Electrical Engineering a small electronic computing machine was built for the first time in the USSR and served as a prototype for the large computing machine which was built in the Academy of Sciences USSR. In the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences a great deal of fruitful work has been done in the field of generation and investigation of centimeter and other ranges of radio waves which play such an important role in the new technology and contemporary scientific research.

Widely known in our country is the outstanding work of the Institute of Electric Welding imeni Ye. O. Paton. At the July Plenum of the CC CPSU, comrade N. S. Khrushchev spoke highly of this work. Of considerable theoretical and practical significance is the theory of welding developed by the Institute and apparatus for automatic and semi-automatic welding under Flux. A Lenin prize was awarded for the method and apparatus developed by the Institute for electric-slag welding of very thick metal.

Much could be said concerning the work of Ukrainian scientists in the fields of chemistry, biology, geology, and medicine. In recent years considerable progress has been made on questions of Ukrainian history, economics, linguistics, literature, and art. All this constitutes a firm basis for the preparation at the present time of an encyclopedia of the Ukrainian people.

* * *

The USE is a universal encyclopedia. It is a reference work for all branches of sciences, technology, and culture. Considerable space is allotted in it to articles on the natural sciences. For example, in the first volume we find a whole series of articles on ideas connected with the atom ("Atom", "Atomics", "Atomic Energy", "Atomic Nucleus", "Atomic Explosions", "Tagged Atoms"). Among the major articles are "Astronomy", "Atmosphere", "Automation", (with a series of articles--"Automatic Line", "Automatic Control", "Automatic Interplanetary Station", etc.), "Automobile", "Biology" (with a series of articles--"Agrobiology", "Biophysics", "Biochemistry"). Among the articles on questions of technology may be mentioned that on "Automatic Welding of Metals".

The USE is devoting detailed articles to the fraternal union republics. In the first volume the reader finds articles on the "Azerbaijan SSR", "Belorussian SSR", biographies of many public figures of Russia, Armenia, Georgia, the Central Asiatic and Baltic republics. The USE throws light on the history and present situation of foreign countries (articles on "Albania", "Austria", "Argentina", and others).

Of the articles in the humanities series there should be mentioned those such as "Bolshevism", "Bolshevik Press", "Agitation", "Anti-Duehring", "Aristotle", "Arab Culture", all of which are very comprehensive. Depicted in the articles of the USE is the fraternal unity of the Ukrainian people with the Russian and other peoples of the Soviet land, their common struggle for the victory of the Great October Revolution and for the building of Communism in our country. The articles are infused with a spirit of proletarian internationalism.

With the appearance of the USE the Ukrainian reader can obtain information of interest to him (of course, in brief, laconic form) on all branches of knowledge and can read it in his native language. But the USE is not simply

an encyclopedia in the Ukrainian language. Its special value consists in the fact that it contains more detailed materials on the Ukraine than are contained in other encyclopedias.

In the first volume of the USE there is a total of about 600 articles completely devoted to the Ukraine. Important among them are articles on questions of the history of the Ukraine; the history of the Communist Party of the Ukraine; biographies of leaders of the Ukrainian state, scholars, writers, artists. The USE also contains materials on the life of the toiling Ukrainian emigration. In many cases the USE will now become the only source of scientifically valid information on questions of Ukrainian history and culture for all future encyclopedia publications.

From among the original materials on Ukrainian subjects let us consider as an example the article "Arsenal Men". The article is devoted to the work of the Kiev "Arsenal" Factory imeni V. I. Lenin. Its author is a long-time member of the CPSU, F. N. Petrov, who passed through the primary school of revolutionary struggle in the ranks of the Kiev proletariat. He states that as early as the 1880s among the arsenal workers there were a number of members of the South Russian Workers' Union--one of the first revolutionary organizations in Russia and in the Ukraine. Under the leadership of the Bolsheviks the arsenal workers at the time of the January 1918 insurrection selflessly fought against the bourgeois-nationalist Central Rada. "The proud name of Arsenal man, writes F. N. Petrov", stands as a symbol of true service to the working class, the Communist Party, and the socialist Fatherland, which is successfully building Communism" (p. 305). There are two clear illustrations for the article "Arsenal Men": a colored line engraving by I. M. Selivanov, "The Arsenal Has Risen", and an etching by V. I. Kasiyan, "Arsenal Men".

It should be especially noted that many articles on general-political subjects contain interesting material relating to the Ukraine. For example, the article "Bolshevik Press", in a general historical sketch of the development of the Bolshevik press, gives reference materials concerning the pre-revolutionary Ukrainian workers' press, and also concerning the present state of the press in the Ukraine. In the Ukrainian republic there are now being published more than 3,300 newspapers with a total circulation of more than 80 million copies (while in 1938 in the Ukraine 1,570 newspapers were published).

Very valuable is the fact that there is Ukrainian material even in many brief notes. For example, in the short article "Alekseyev, Petr" devoted to the life of the Russian worker-revolutionary, we find a line to the effect that the famous speech which Alekseyev delivered on 22 (10) March 1877 on "the trial of the 50" concerning the historical role of the Russian working class, was distributed by the famous Ukrainian writer, Ivan Franko, among the oil workers of Borislav.

In the article "Azerbaijan SSR" material is found on the fraternal ties between the Ukrainian and Azerbaijani peoples. The socialist competition between the oil workers of Baku and the miners of the Donbas, which began in the 1920s, has become traditional.

In the article "Albania" the growing friendship is noted between the Albanian people and the peoples of the USSR, including the Ukrainian. Friendship has sprung up between Albanian and Ukrainian cities: Durazzo and Odessa, Korchí and Izmaila. "Days" devoted to Albanian and Ukrainian culture are held in Albania and in the Ukraine.

* * *

Soviet encyclopedias are genuinely collective works. A large number of authors, reviewers and editors take part in their preparation (numbering 16,000 in the case of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia). The main editorial board of the USE has been able to enlist the aid of the broad public in the preparation of a monumental work. In the preparation of the first volume of the USE more than a thousand scholars and men of letters, Party and State officials, have already taken part.

Through the collective efforts of the scholars of the Ukraine, its Party and Soviet organs, it has been possible to issue the first volume of the USE in a comparatively short period of time. From our experience in encyclopedia work we know very well that the first volume is the most difficult, is to a certain extent "experimental" because a great deal of creative effort is required in defining the "profile" of the publication, working out standard types of articles, methods of arrangement, etc. In our opinion, the Ukrainian comrades have coped with this task with complete success.

It is obviously not within the scope of our assign-

ment to embark on a review of an encyclopedia volume containing 3,800 articles on all branches of knowledge. Nevertheless, we wish to bring several shortcomings to the attention of the Ukrainian comrades. Because the present volume is the first, our suggestions, if they are accepted, may still be considered in the editing of subsequent volumes.

Such articles as "Agronomy", "Agrotechnology", "Agricultural Forest Reclamation", "Agronomic Analysis", "Agro-Propaganda", seem to us rather scanty. Some of the articles are excessively brief for such an encyclopedia. Moreover, these might be considered among the "leading" articles in an Ukrainian encyclopedia, since in recent years the scientists and innovators of the agriculture of the Ukraine have accumulated an enormous amount of positive experience. If the articles of this series had contained information on the experience of the best collective and state farms, scientific research establishments, and individual leaders in agricultural production, the scientific level and practical value of the articles on questions of agronomy and agrotechnology would have been greater.

Another remark. It seems to us that the Ukrainian material should in later volumes of the USE be given even greater space than in the first volume. The authors and editorial boards have not utilized in the first volume all possible opportunities for setting forth the achievements of Ukrainian culture. For example, in the article "Architecture" there is very little material relating to the Ukraine.

These shortcomings do not by any means detract from the enormous work which has been performed by the editorial board and the authors' collective of the USE. They are to be congratulated on the successful publication of the first volume of the URE.

The significance of this publication is so great that it will undoubtedly not only be received with satisfaction in the Ukraine but will arouse great interest throughout our country and far beyond its borders.

The issuance of an Ukrainian encyclopedia is evidence of the continuing rapid development of socialist culture.

The increased wealth of the spiritual culture of Soviet society is a welcome sign of our time, the time of the unfolding of the building of Communism.